

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A purification method that comprises (a) subjecting a sample enriched for minicells to a condition selected from the group consisting of a stress-inducing osmotic condition, an anaerobic condition and a nutrient-limiting condition, which condition [that] induces parent bacterial cells to adopt a filamentous form, and then (b) filtering said sample, wherein said filtering passes minicells but not filamentous parent bacterial cells, [yielding] such that said method yields a purified composition of minicells.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said sample is incubated in a hypertonic medium.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the filtering step is a dead-end filtration with a filter employing a pore size of about 0.45 μm .

13-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the filtering step comprises cross-flow filtration.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the filtering step comprises a serial filtration process that combines cross-flow filtration and dead-end filtration.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the filtering step employs at least one filter employing a pore size less than or equal to about 0.2 μm .

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the filtering step employs at least one filter employing a pore size greater than or equal to about 0.45 μm .

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein said serial filtration process is preceded by differential centrifugation.
32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the filtering step employs at least one filter employing a pore size less than or equal to about 0.2 μm .
33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the filtering step employs at least one filter employing a pore size greater than or equal to about 0.45 μm .
34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of subjecting the minicells to density gradient centrifugation in a biologically compatible medium.
35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, further comprising a step of subjecting the minicells to differential centrifugation.
36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein said medium is isotonic and non-toxic.
37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein said medium consists essentially of iodixanol and water.
38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of treating said purified composition of minicells with an antibiotic.
39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of removing free endotoxin from said purified composition of minicells.
40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein said step of removing free endotoxin employs anti-Lipid A antibodies.